



Clark County, Washington **Endangered Species Act Information**

Salmon recovery: What can I do to get involved?



When it comes to saving salmon, governments can only do so much. Just as important is the role of citizens. By getting involved, each of us can improve the chances of restoring healthy runs of wild salmon to our waterways. Here are some suggestions for getting started:

Plant native vegetation along stream banks

Native streamside vegetation is important for keeping water cool and clean for fish. Several organizations in the area offer volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups for streamside planting and wetlands restoration

projects in spring and fall. During the dry months, projects include mulching, watering, weeding, and monitoring the success of earlier planting projects. For a real workout, consider an ivy or blackberry pull! To volunteer, contact the following organizations:

- Clark Conservation District - (360) 883-1987 ext. 4.
- Clark Public Utilities - (360) 992-3026
- Fish First - (360) 713-7460
- Friends of Trees - (503) 284-8733
- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation - (360) 619-1111

Stencil storm drains

Did you know that one quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water? Stenciling storm drains broadens public awareness that runoff from county roads goes directly into our streams and rivers.

Clark County invites individuals, community groups, and other volunteers to help protect our stormwater by stenciling the message "Dump No Waste - Drains to Stream" on storm drains. The county supplies all materials including paint, stencils, hand-outs, and safety equipment. Contact Cindy Stienbarger at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4584 or e-mail cindy.stienbarger@clark.wa.gov.

Become a Watershed Steward

Individuals receive 60 hours of training over ten weeks in exchange for equal hours of volunteer service to provide community education and help citizens to become better land stewards. Study topics include habitat

needs and enhancements for fish (especially salmon) and wildlife, water quality and conservation, aquatic ecosystems, identification of native and invasive plants, erosion control, restoration, and more. Offered by Washington State University Clark County Cooperative Extension. For more information and applications contact Gary Bock at (360) 397-6060, ext. 7703 or e-mail gary.rock@clark.wa.gov.

Cultivate salmon-friendly habits at work and at home

- *Conserve water.* Excessive water use lowers stream levels and hurts the ability of salmon to spawn.
- *Conserve electricity.* Using hydroelectric power lowers river levels, making it difficult for salmon to reach the ocean.
- *Recycle.* It saves energy, preserves natural resources, and protects wildlife habitat.
- *Avoid using toxic chemicals* in the home and garden. For a list of salmon-friendly products, visit the following web pages: www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house/cleaners.html and www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/house/pests.html.
- *Clark County's Stormwater Pollution Control Manual* provides businesses with a guide to best management practices. For more information, contact Cary Armstrong at (360) 397-6118 ext. 4392 or e-mail cary.armstrong@clark.wa.gov.

Garden naturally

Many of our gardening habits and activities can actually harm salmon. This includes everything from heavy water use, which reduces water in

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streams when salmon need it most, to the pesticides and fertilizers we apply, which can run off into storm drains and into waterways inhabited by fish. For more information on salmon-friendly gardening, including composting and landscaping with native species, call (360) 397-2022 ext. 3 to request a "How to be a salmon-friendly gardener" brochure, or visit www.clark.wa.gov/esa/involved/garden.html. To learn more about Clark County's natural gardening program, call Sally Fisher at (360) 397-6118, ext. 4939 or e-mail sally.fisher@clark.wa.gov.

Work with your neighborhood association or homeowners association

Don't want to save the fish by yourself? Then consider working with your neighborhood association or homeowners association. It's likely to be more fun and much more productive.

Meet with your neighbors to implement salmon-friendly activities such as restoring streamside vegetation, implementing natural yard and garden care techniques, recycling and composting, stenciling storm drains, and more. For information on Clark County neighborhood associations, contact Holly Gaya at (360) 397-6012 ext. 5 or e-mail holly.gaya@clark.wa.gov.

Become involved in local county decisions

Citizen input is important for shaping the direction of our community. Clark County adopts ordinances and other regulations on an ongoing basis. It is currently revising its Comprehensive Growth Management Plan. To give input into the role of salmon recovery in the comprehensive plan, or for more information, contact Marty Snell at (360) 397-2375 ext. 4112. (marty.snell@clark.wa.gov)

As openings become available, consider joining a county task force such as the ESA Advisory Committee or the Clean Water Task Force.

Inform yourself about salmon recovery

Learning about this issue will make you a more effective advocate for salmon recovery. A good overview is provided on the Clark County ESA Web Site (www.saveoursalmon.com), which includes links to other organizations and government agencies working to save salmon.

The Environment Information Cooperative at the Washington State University campus in Salmon Creek has an excellent collection of books, videos, magazines, curricula, and files that you can check out. Call (360) 883-0392.

The Clark County Public Information and Outreach Office maintains a file of articles on salmon issues clipped from local newspapers. Contact (360) 397-6012 ext. 3. The county's ESA video is available to groups and individuals seeking to learn more about salmon recovery. Contact (360) 397-2022 ext. 3.

Help spread the word

If you belong to a professional organization, service club, non-profit, or other group, consider inviting a speaker to present on salmon issues. A live presentation is one of the most effective ways to spread the message about salmon recovery. The Clark County ESA Speakers Bureau can help make sense of complex fish issues and offers presentations tailored to the interests of your group. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (360) 397-2022 ext. 3.



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